

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in this application. Please cancel claims 32, 55, 65, 71, 78-81, 87, and 89 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 31, 54, 64, 70, 76, 88, and 90, as follows:

1-30. (Cancelled).

31. (Currently Amended) A medical esophageal stent having a valve, comprising:

a generally tubular body formed of braided wires and having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, the tubular body being sized and configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient; and

a normally at least substantially closed valve formed of non-braided wires extended from the braided wires of the tubular body, wherein the valve is configured to open in response to a predetermined condition,

wherein a valved end of the valve includes an opening when the valve is in the normally at least substantially closed position.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein at least a portion of the tubular body is provided with a covering.

34. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 33, wherein the material for the covering is selected from a group of polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and silicone.

35. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein at least a portion of the valve is provided with a covering.

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36. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 35, wherein the material for the covering is selected from a group of polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and silicone.

37. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined pressure difference between an upstream and a downstream of the valve.

38. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein the valve is a one-way valve.

39. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein the extended wires forming the valve are curled inwards.

40. (Withdrawn) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein the extended wires forming the valve have a straight portion and a bend inwards at a predetermined location of the extended wires.

41. (Withdrawn) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein the extended wires forming the valve are curled so that middle portions of the extended wires converge toward each other.

42-53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) A medical stent having a valve, comprising:
a generally tapered tubular body formed of braided wires and having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion; and

a normally closed valve formed of non-braided wires extended from the braided wires of the tubular body, wherein the valve is configured to open in response to a predetermined condition,

wherein a valved end of the valve includes an opening when the valve is in the normally at least substantially closed position.

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55. (Canceled).

56. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein at least a portion of the tubular body and valve is provided with a covering.

57. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 56, wherein the material for the covering is selected from a group of polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and silicone.

58. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined pressure difference between an upstream and a downstream of the valve.

59. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the valve is a one-way valve.

60. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the extended wires forming the valve are curled inwards so as to form generally convex shapes relative to an interior of the valve.

61. (Withdrawn) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the extended wires forming the valve have a straight portion and a bend inwards at a predetermined location of the extended wires.

62. (Withdrawn) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the extended wires forming the valve are curled so that middle portions of the extended wires converge toward each other.

63. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the stent is an esophageal stent being sized and configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient.

64. (Currently Amended) A medical stent having a valve, comprising:

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a generally tubular body formed of braided wires and having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion; and

a normally at least substantially closed valve formed of non-braided wires extended from the braided wires of the tubular body, the non-braided wires being curled inwardly so as to form wires having a convex shape relative to an interior of the valve, wherein the valve is configured to open in response to a predetermined condition,

wherein a valved end of the valve includes an opening when the valve is in the normally at least substantially closed position.

65. (Canceled)

66. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 64, wherein at least a portion of the tubular body and valve is provided with a covering.

67. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 66, wherein the material for the covering is selected from a group of polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and silicone.

68. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 64, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined pressure difference between an upstream and a downstream of the valve.

69. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 64, wherein the valve is a one-way valve.

70. (Currently Amended) A medical esophageal stent having a valve, comprising:

a generally tubular body formed of braided wires and having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, the tubular body having a generally tapered body and being sized and configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient; and

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a normally at least substantially closed valve formed of non-braided wires extended from the braided wires of the tubular body, the non-braided wires being curled inwardly so as to form wires having a convex shape relative to an interior of the valve, wherein the valve is configured to open in response to a predetermined condition, wherein a valved end of the valve includes an opening when the valve is in the normally at least substantially closed position.

71. (Canceled).

72. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 70, wherein at least a portion of the tubular body and valve is provided with a covering.

73. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 72, wherein the material for the covering is selected from a group of polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and silicone.

74. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 70, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined pressure difference between an upstream and a downstream of the valve.

75. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 70, wherein the predetermined condition is a passage of food from the esophagus into the stomach.

76. (Currently Amended) A medical esophageal stent having a valve, comprising:

a generally tubular body formed of braided wires and having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion, the tubular body being sized and configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient; and

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a normally at least substantially closed valve formed integral to the distal end portion of the tubular body, wherein the valve is configured to open in response to a predetermined condition,

wherein a valved end of the valve includes an opening when the valve is in the normally at least substantially closed position, and wherein the valve is made of an elastomeric material.

77. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 76, wherein the tubular body has a generally tapered body.

78-81. (Cancelled)

82. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 76, wherein at least a portion of the tubular body and valve is provided with a covering.

83. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 82, wherein the material for the covering is selected from a group of polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and silicone.

84. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 76, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined pressure difference between an upstream and a downstream of the valve.

85. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 76, wherein the predetermined condition is a passage of food from the esophagus into the stomach.

86. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 76, wherein the predetermined condition is a vomiting of a stomach content from the stomach to the esophagus.

87. (Cancelled)

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88. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The medical esophageal stent according to claim [[87]] 76, wherein the elastomeric valve is a gasket valve.

89. (Canceled).

90. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The medical esophageal stent according to claim [[89]] 76, wherein the opening includes at least one slit.

91. (Previously Presented) A medical stent having a valve, comprising:
a generally tubular body formed of braided wires and having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion; and
a normally at least substantially closed valve formed integral to the distal end portion of the tubular body, the valve including a valved end having an opening when the valve is in the normally at least substantially closed position,
wherein the valve is configured to open in response to a predetermined condition.

92. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 91, wherein the tubular body has a generally tapered body.

93. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 91, wherein the tubular body is sized and configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient.

94. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 91, wherein the valve is formed of non-braided wires extended from the braided wires of the tubular body.

95. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 94, wherein the non-braided wires are curled inwardly so as to form wires having a convex shape relative to an interior of the valve.

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96. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 94, wherein the non-braided wires forming the valve have a straight portion and a bend inwards at a predetermined location of the extended wires.

97. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 94, wherein the non-braided wires forming the valve are curled so that middle portions of the extended wires converge toward each other.

98. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 94, wherein at least a portion of the tubular body and valve is provided with a covering.

99. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 98, wherein the material for the covering is selected from a group of polyurethane, polytetrafluoroethylene, and silicone.

100. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 91, wherein the predetermined condition is a predetermined pressure difference between an upstream and a downstream of the valve.

101. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 91, wherein the valve is made of an elastomeric material.

102. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 101, wherein the elastomeric valve is a gasket valve.

103. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 101, wherein the opening includes at least one slit.

104. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 91, wherein the stent is configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient, and wherein the predetermined condition is a passage of food from the esophagus into the stomach.

105. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 91, wherein the stent is configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient, and wherein the

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predetermined condition is a vomiting of a stomach content from the stomach to the esophagus.

106. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein the predetermined condition is a passage of food from the esophagus into the stomach.

107. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 31, wherein the predetermined condition is a vomiting of a stomach content from the stomach to the esophagus.

108. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the stent is configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient, and wherein the predetermined condition is a passage of food from the esophagus into the stomach.

109. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 54, wherein the stent is configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient, and wherein the predetermined condition is a vomiting of a stomach content from the stomach to the esophagus.

110. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 64, wherein the stent is configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient, and wherein the predetermined condition is a passage of food from the esophagus into the stomach.

111. (Previously Presented) The medical stent according to claim 64, wherein the stent is configured to be placed in an esophagus of a patient, and wherein the predetermined condition is a vomiting of a stomach content from the stomach to the esophagus.

112. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 70, wherein the predetermined condition is a passage of food from the esophagus into the stomach.

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113. (Previously Presented) The medical esophageal stent according to claim 70, wherein the predetermined condition is a vomiting of a stomach content from the stomach to the esophagus.

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